

HOUSE No.

Message from His Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to supplementing certain existing capital spending authorizations. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. March 15, 2013.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

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March 15, 2013.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

I am filing for your consideration a bill entitled “An Act Supplementing Certain Existing Capital Spending Authorizations”.

Additional authorization before the beginning of fiscal year 2014 is imminently needed to ensure that ongoing IT projects will not cease and facility improvement projects are not further deferred. Supplemental capital funding will ensure the continuation of these critical projects and programs to Commonwealth.

Last October, my administration published our sixth capital investment plan, which presented a responsible capital investment strategy for fiscal year 2013 through fiscal year 2017. In order to provide for continued investment in our Commonwealth’s infrastructure and innovation economy, I am filing a series of bond bills, in addition to this bill, to support this plan’s future funding needs through fiscal year 2017. However, it is worth noting that this bill provides a quick infusion of authorization through fiscal year 2014 for authorizations which soon will be depleted.

The citizens of the Commonwealth have asked for and deserve public infrastructure which will meet their needs, create jobs and stimulate economic growth in every corner of our state. Targeted investment in our infrastructure solidifies the foundation of our Commonwealth for future generations. By investing in essential government functions, we create a more effective and efficient government. Investment in information technology will ensure our 21st Century citizens are served by a 21st Century government.

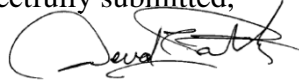
Specifically, this bill continues funding for the following:

- \$175 million to continue state facility deferred maintenance and energy projects, and
- \$200 million for information technology projects including funding for the development of Health Insurance Exchange/Integrated Eligibility System platform in MassHealth to accommodate utilization for eligibility determination for all EHS and potentially non-EHS agencies.

Investments will be made within the my Administration's debt affordability policy, which has allowed an unprecedented level of capital investment in the Commonwealth while maintaining the highest bond rating in the state's history.

In light of the urgent need to continue funding these improvements, I urge immediate action to enact this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval Patrick", written over a horizontal line.

DEVAL L. PATRICK,
Governor.

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act supplementing certain existing capital spending authorizations.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. To provide for continued funding for capital improvements, the sums set forth in section 2, for the several purposes and subject to the conditions specified in this act or in previous appropriation acts, are hereby made available, subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public funds. These sums shall be in addition to any amounts previously appropriated and made available for the purposes of those items.

SECTION 2.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Information Technology Division

1790-3000..... \$200,000,000

Division of Capital Asset Management.

1102-2008.....\$175,000,000

SECTION 3. The first sentence of section 17 of chapter 304 of the acts of 2008 is hereby amended by striking out the figure “\$451,800,000” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- \$651,800,000.

SECTION 4. The first sentence of section 18 of said chapter 304 is hereby amended by striking out the figure “\$1,973,005,000” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- \$2,148,005,000.

SECTION 5. To provide for the continued availability of certain bond-funded spending authorizations which otherwise would expire, the balances of the following appropriation items and any allocations thereof are hereby extended through June 30, 2017, for the purposes of and subject to the conditions stated for these items in the original authorizations and any amendments to such authorizations: 1102-2008 and 1790-3000

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon its passage.